

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1842
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4213

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PRESS SAYS NAMIBIA AGREEMENT AT POINT OF
BREAKING DOWN

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE STAR JULY 24 BY HUGH
LEGGATT.

BEGIN TEXT: WEST BREAK PLEDGE SAYS PRETORIA

THE WHOLE SETTLEMENT PLAN FOR PEACE IN SWA/NAMIBIA,
WHICH LOOKED SO CLOSE TO RATIFICATION, IS ON THE POINT OF
BREAKING DOWN OVER WALVIS BAY.

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THE CRISIS WAS PRECIPITATED BY A RESOLUTION, WHICH HAS
WESTERN BACKING, PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE UN SECURITY
COUNCIL IN NEW YORK TOMORROW.

IT MAKES SWA/NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE DEPENDENT ON THE "RE-
INTEGRATION" OF WALVIS BAY WITHIN THE TERRITORY.

THE WEST'S SUPPORT IS BEING SEEN BY SOURCES IN
PRETORIA AS A "DOUBLE CROSS" AND A BREACH OF FAITH
FOLLOWING ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY.

ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN PRETORIA, AN
COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS AND OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE WEST'S PLAN FOR A TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE COULD
OCCUR TOMORROW IF THE WEST FORMALLY SUPPORTS THE RESOLUTION
AT THE UN.

A BREAKDOWN WOULD MEAN THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD HAVE
TO GO AHEAD WITH THE INDEPENDENCE PLAN WITHOUT INTERNATIONAL
SUPPORT AND POSSIBLY IN THE TEETH OF UN SANCTIONS.

VISIT IS OFF.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. PK BOTHA,
CANCELLED PLANS TO ATTEND THE UN FOLLOWING THE WORDING OF
THE RESOLUTION BEING MADE KNOWN.

HE WOULD NOT COMMENT TODAY EXCEPT TO SAY THAT "A
VERY SERIOUS SITUATION HAS DEVELOPED."

OTHER SOURCES SAID SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEM WITH THE
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RESOLUTION IS THAT IN ALL THE NEGOTIATIONS SOUTH AFRICA HAS
HAD WITH THE WEST BOTH SIDES ACCEPTED THAT THE QUESTION
OF WALVIS BAY WOULD NOT BE INTRODUCED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY
INTO THE TERMS OF SETTLEMENT.

LAST WEEK, THE WEST GAVE A WRITTEN ASSURANCE THAT
WALVIS BAY WAS A SEPARATE ISSUE.

WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN PRETORIA REJECTED
ACCUSATIONS OF BAD FAITH AND TOOK A MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW
OF WHAT MIGHT OCCUR IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TOMORROW.

ONE SOURCE SAID: "I WOULDN'T ACCEPT THAT AN UL-
TIMATUM HAD BEEN GIVEN US BY SOUTH AFRICA. WE ARE NOT
FINISHED ON THIS YET."

THE RESOLUTION IS THE RESULT OF LONG DISCUSSIONS
WITH MANY PEOPLE AND STARTED AS A RESOLUTION MUCH LESS
FAVOURABLE TO SOUTH AFRICA. HOW IT ENDS UP TOMORROW IS
ANOTHER MATTER."

SOUTH AFRICAN SOURCES WERE SORRY THAT A

POTENTIAL BREAKDOWN POINT HAD BEEN REACHED NOT BECAUSE OF MORE TOUCHY DETAILS SUCH AS RACE DISCRIMINATION OR THE DISPOSITION OF TROOPS BUT BECAUSE OF THE "EXTRANEIOUS" MATTER OF WALVIS BAY BEING INTRODUCED AT THE LAST MOMENT.

THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE BORDERS OF THE MANDATED TERRITORY HAD NEVER BEFORE BEEN CALLED INTO QUESTION AND WERE NOT A MATTER OF NEGOTIATION.

NEITHER DID THE UN RESOLUTION PUTTING IN TRAIN THE INDEPENDENCE PROPOSALS HAVE A WORD ABOUT WALVIS BAY.

ONE SOURCE SAID: "IS WALVIS BAY ALL THAT IMPORTANT ? MAYBE WE WOULD HAVE EVENTUALLY REACHED SOME RESULT ON UNCLASSIFIED

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WALVIS BAY, BUT THE POINT IS IF THE WEST RENEGE ON THIS POINT WHAT FAITH CAN WE HAVE IN THEM DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION STAGES ?"

IF SOUTH AFRICA WERE TO GET SANCTIONS AND OSTRACISM BECAUSE THE PLAN HAD FAILED IT WOULD BE BECAUSE SOUTH AFRICA HAD COMPLIED WITH THE AGREEMENTS AND THE WEST HAD NOT. SOUTH AFRICA'S CONSCIENCE WAS CLEAR.

URGENT TALKS

KEVIN JACOBS REPORTED FROM NEW YORK THAT THE WESTERN SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE MET URGENTLY AT THE WEEKEND AFTER A SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT WAS RELAYED TO THEM.

SOME DIPLOMATS IN THE UNITED NATIONS POINTED OUT THAT EVEN A SEPARATE RESOLUTION - OUTSIDE THE INDEPENDENCE PROPOSALS - BLATANTLY PULLS THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY INTO THE BROADER POLITICAL ISSUE OF INDEPENDENCE.

MEMBERS OF THE 15-NATION SECURITY COUNCIL MEET IN CLOSED SESSION TODAY TO DECIDE THEIR NEXT MOVES.

SWAPO'S SECRETARY OF INFORMATION IN WINDHOEK, MR. MOKGANEDI THLABANELLO, SAID AT A WEEKEND MEETING THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN GIVEN A DECLARATION BY THE FIVE WESTERN NATIONS ON SWAPO, REPORTS THE STAR'S AFRICA NEWS SERVICE.

HE SAID SWAPO HAD ALSO BEEN TOLD BY THE WESTERN FIVE THAT WALVIS BAY WOULD BE CONSIDERED A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND NOT OF SOUTH AFRICA. UNCLASSIFIED

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END TEXT.
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